

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action dated March 28, 2002, and the references cited therein. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Applicants have amended the specification to supply the serial numbers of the referenced copending applications. No new matter is believed added to the application by way of the proposed amendments to the specification as set forth herein. The Examiner has objected to the numbering of the claims. In response, Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. These amendments have not been made to distinguish over any reference of record and no narrowing of any corresponding equivalents to which the amended limitation(s) or claim(s) are entitled is intended by such amendments. Prior to addressing the rejections, Applicants request that the Examiner consider the following remarks.

The present invention discloses a symmetrical, peer to peer communication protocol collectively referred as the "Info Bus." The InfoBus is not a physical communication link such as link 56 of Barnett. Instead, the InfoBus is a virtual bus that exists as a collection of interfaces that enable peer to peer communication among registered member of an instance of the InfoBus. An instance of the InfoBus may exist within a single computer system, or across a LAN or WAN. Multiple instances of the InfoBus may exist among different groupings of the same components. In the illustrative embodiment, and no single entity controls an instance of the InfoBus and the data is not broadcast to each member of an InfoBus instance. In an InfoBus instance, data producer members and data consumer members interact through announcement and notifications that are detected by event listeners associated with the instance of the InfoBus and with the member applications thereto.

Claims 1, 6, 8-9, 12, 14, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Cheng U.S. Patent No. 6,151,643. In setting forth the rejections, the Examiner has admitted that Cheng does not teach event listener.

Claims 1, 9, and 14 have been amended to include an event listener. Specifically, claim 1 now recites a method including "generating an event listener to listen for event activity on the information bus" (claim 1, lines 10-11). Claim 14 now recites a computer program product including "program code to generate an event listener to listen for event activity on the information bus" (claim 14, lines 14-15). Claim 9 now recites an apparatus including "event listening logic to listen for bus events over the information bus" (claim 9, line 8). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 9, and 14, as well as their respective dependent claims, are not anticipated by Cheng. Claims 2, 10, and 15 have been deleted, without prejudice.

Claims 2-3, 7, 10-11, 13, 15-16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2-3, 7, 10-11, 13, 15-16, and 20, and any of the claims as amended herein, on the grounds that the Examiner has failed to create a *prima facie* case of obviousness. In accordance with MPEP §2143.03, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness 1) the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest *all* of the claim limitations; 2) there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify a reference or combine references; and 3) there must be a reasonable expectation of success. In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner has admitted that Cheng does not teach event listener and further stated that it would have been obvious to consider Cheng's feature as an event listener because it performs the function of recording all activities of client computers such as login, logout, or updating software.

The Examiner has alleged that the Cheng teaching of a server computer that uses an activity log to record activities (Cheng, column 20, lines 61-67) is analogous to the event listener process as claimed. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's analogy. Cheng merely discloses keeping a record of the activities performed by the server with an activity log. Conversely, claim 1 recites a method including generating an event listener to listen for event activity on the information bus, not just activities in which the server participated. This process is distinctly different than that cited in Cheng. In Cheng, the server does not monitor other announcement

and notifications from data producing and data consuming members of the information bus. The Examiner can appreciate that merely logging activities is fundamentally different than actively listening for specific events generated by other members of the InfoBus. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds that the Examiner has failed to create a *prima facie* case of obviousness for failing to show how the prior art reference teaches or suggests *all* of the claim limitations (MPEP §2143.03).

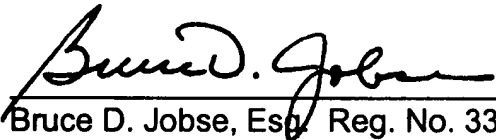
Claims 4-5 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng in view of Barnett U.S. Patent No. 6,356,948. In setting forth the rejection of claim 4, the Examiner has admitted does not teach or specify the data name. Instead, the Examiner is alleging that Barnett teaches client application that receives data from server computer ; specifying the data name (packet identifier, line 47 column 5) by way of a property (type of data contained in the data packet, lines 63-64 column 5). The Examiner further is alleging that it would have been obvious to apply the teachings of Barnett to the system of Cheng because the client computer needs to know what it is getting and if the data is suitable for the client application, therefore it can make the decision of downloading the data or not. After review of the cited portions of the Barnett reference, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as improper on the grounds that the Examiner has failed to create a *prima facie* case of obviousness for failing to show how the prior art reference (or references when combined) teaches or suggests *all* of the claim limitations (MPEP §2143.03). Even if Applicants were to assume that the Examiner's statements regarding the rejection of 4 and 17 were true, the combined teachings of Cheng and Barnett still do not disclose all of the limitations of the independent claims 1 and 14 from which claims 4 and 17 depend, respectively, for the reasons set forth above with respect to the traversals of the claim 1 and 14 rejections.

The amendments to the claims as set forth herein, including the addition or cancellation of any claims, have been offered to advance this application to issue. None of the amendments made herein should be construed as an admission that the subject matter of the claims, as originally filed, is anticipated by or made obvious in light

of any art of record whether considered singularly or in combinations. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the originally filed claims in another co-pending application without being prejudiced by any amendments, including cancellation of claims, made herein.

Applicants believe the claims are in allowable condition. A notice of allowance for this application is solicited earnestly. If the Examiner has any further questions regarding this amendment, he/she is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any balances under 37 CFR §1.17, and 1.16 to Deposit Account No. DA-12-2158.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version Marked to Show Changes

Paragraph beginning on page 2, line 3:

This application is the one of five U.S. patent applications filed on an even date herewith and commonly assigned, including:

Serial No. 09/222,489 [XX/XXX,XXX], Attorney Docket No. L09-97-001, by Douglass J. Wilson et. al., entitled "Method and System for Communicating Information Among Interactive Applications";

Serial No. 09/222,201 [XX/XXX,XXX], Attorney Docket No. L09-98-032, by Douglass J. Wilson et. al., entitled "Method and System for Controlling Data Acquisition Over and Information Bus" , now U.S. Patent 6,266,716;

Serial No. 09/222,467 [XX/XXX,XXX], Attorney Docket No. L09-98-034, by Douglass J. Wilson et. al., entitled "Method and System for Distributing Data Events Over an Information Bus"; and

Serial No. 09/222,520 [XX/XXX,XXX], Attorney Docket No. L09-97-046, by Douglass J. Wilson et. al., entitled "InfoCenter User Interface for Applets and Components".

The subject matters of the above-identified copending patent applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

1. A method for allowing an application to retrieve data from participating applications sharing an information bus, comprising the steps of:
 - a. connecting the application to the information bus as an event consumer;
 - i. identifying data within the application that is needed;
 - j. notifying the information bus of the data needed from other participating applications;
 - k. receiving notice of the data needed is available by data name from another participating application;
 - l. requesting the data by name via the information bus; and

m. generating an event listener to listen for event activity on the information bus.

4.[3.] The method according to claim 1 wherein step d further comprises specifying the data name by way of a property.

5. [4.] The method according to claim 1 wherein step d further comprises specifying the data name by way of a parameter.

6.[5.] The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

n. providing a view associated with the data needed.

7.[6.] The method according to claim 1 wherein the data is a Java Object.

8. [7.] The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step

o. providing descriptive and identifying information about the data.

9. [8.] Apparatus for retrieving data across an information bus for use with an application, the data being retrieved from other application sharing the information bus, the apparatus comprising:

data notification logic to notify the information bus of the need for a desired data element;

data element retrieval logic to retrieve a requested data element from the information bus; and

event listening logic to listen for bus events over the information bus.

11. [10.] The apparatus according to claim [8] 9 further comprising data element managing logic configured to change the data within a data element and the data

notification logic is configured to announce the data change across the information bus to the application from which the data element originated.

12. [11.] The apparatus according to claim [8] 9 wherein the data element provides a view associated with the data item.

13. [12.] The apparatus according to claim [8] 9 wherein the data element is a Java Object.

14. [13.] A computer program product for use within a computer system to provide an application with data retrieval capabilities from participating applications sharing an information bus, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied on the medium for enabling data to be accessed across the computer system, the medium further comprising:

program code to connect the application to the information bus as an event consumer;
program code to identify data within the application that is needed;

program code to notify the information bus of the data needed from other participating applications;

program code to receive notice of the data needed and available by data name from other participating applications; [and]

program code to request the data by name via the information bus; and
program code to generate an event listener to listen for event activity on the information bus.

16. [15.] The computer program product of claim [13] 14 further comprising:

program code to change the requested data after receipt;

program code to announce the data change across the information bus to the registered application from which the data was originally obtained.

17. [16.] The computer program product of claim [13] 14 further comprising program code to specify the data name using a property.

18. [17.] The computer program product of claim [13] 14 further comprising program code to specify the data name using a parameter.

19. [18.] The computer program product of claim [13] 14 further comprising program code to provide a view associated with the data.

20. [19.] The computer program product of claim [13] 14 wherein the data is a Java Object.

21. [20.] The computer program product of claim [13] 14 further comprising program code to providing descriptive and identifying information about the data.